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WASHINGTON PLANNING FOR DELAYED HOLIDAY TIME

Expected That Tariff Orators Cannot Last Out
Much Longer--President Sorting Out
His Golf Sticks.

By Ernest G. Walker.

(Mail Special to the Advertiser.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 15.—Uncle Sam is now on the last lap of a year and of a fiscal year. An era of new things is close at hand. The tedium of tariff can not last much longer. The first important stage of the new administration will soon be history, no matter how tenacious the orators of Congress may be. Eyes are upon the opening of a new set of books and upon the tasks and the pleasures of the summer capital.

The multitudinous tasks of arranging and setting in order have already been tackled. Washington and its officials are accustomed to anticipate. The diplomats are already puffing out for the green fields and the rural prospects. They will dally a little longer to make sure that they have advised their governments correctly about the tariff. In the older days the diplomats looked down upon activities that smacked of the commercial. They left such things to the consuls and the consular agents. Now, however, tariffs are of such world importance and have such a great bearing upon commercial supremacy and upon world supremacy that the diplomats simply have to take notice thereof.

The President expected a little surcease from other official troubles that he could attend to momentous matters, other than tariff, before he sped away to the beautiful retreat at Beverly. There has been so much tariff talk around the White House offices, however, that he has had to defer many matters for consideration at the summer capital, rather than at the winter capital and now it looks as though Beverly would be the scene of many governmental doings before the summer is over. The lawyers of his cabinet will certainly be going there frequently to discuss corporation problems that he must reach some decision upon before the summer flies by. The President has recently said so as he went over the situation and observed the chances for real rest at Beverly diminishing.

Of course he is going to play golf on the Massachusetts coast, ride far and wide in his high power automobiles, and sit under the shade of the big trees and sniff the salt water and go sailing occasionally. He does not propose to forego those pleasures. But he sees that he must have many official visitors from time to time during the summer. He will hold no cabinet meetings after he departs from Washington but he will of necessity hold many conferences with his cabinet officials. Many of them intend to pass the summer in New England. He will probably be able to summon half a dozen of the nine by telephone almost any day.

His very recent statement, made to a couple of callers, that he could not get away from Beverly before the middle of September indicates something of the President's determination to stay there as long as he can before he starts out for a tour of the West and the South. Probably he will write much of his annual message to Congress there—at least he will block it out and have it ready for revision before he leaves here. He had hoped to write that message in the main before he leaves Washington but other things have occupied his time. It will be a very important document to his administration, because it will be his first annual message to Congress and because it will comprise important recommendations regarding his policies.

At Beverly he will confer with numerous government officials for information about the topics he treats. It will be supplemented by information he gathers on his western trip but this will be used when he revises the message just before he sends it to the Government Printing Office to be put into type.

Above all things the President wants to watch by Mrs. Taft as she is restored to health. He wants her to accompany him on his western trip. It was because of her illness from nervous breakdown that he abandoned a trip to Alaska and he has already intimated that, unless she does recover her health, he may curtail his western trip materially. The President loves to travel, but he especially enjoys having Mrs. Taft along with him and he would be very loath to go West next September without her.

By the time the autumn begins, the President will have his bearings better than ever before since he entered the White House. He will be able to determine by that time something of the expected return of prosperity in which he is greatly interested as a feature of his administration. The new tariff law will then have been in operation long enough to tell something about its character as a revenue measure and also as a stimulus to industrial activity. He will be able to forecast the prospects of sufficient Treasury funds with which to conduct the government. He will also be able by that time to gauge the temper of the rather critical western country toward him.

If he puts the shutters up on the summer capital by September 15, as he now

plans to do, he will hardly be back in Washington before the first of November. Then he can enter upon his winter's duties in good season and make ready for the coming of Congress, which will assemble a month later for a long session extending well into June of next year.

All the energies of the departments and bureaus in Washington are being guided with reference to such a presidential program. The moment the tariff bill is signed, everybody in Washington knows there will be a great scramble to get away. Steam will be up for the President's train and, in all probability, if the session lasts till the sixth or seventh of July he will go straight to Beverly without stopping anywhere. A rush of Senators and Representatives to get out of town will also set in—not only of those 500, many of them with their families, but of 2000 or 3000 others including the families of the little host of Capitol employees.

Then, the moment Congress has adjourned and the President has departed there will be 30,000 departmental employees asking for their summer vacations. A good fraction of these 30,000 will "hike" away for a month in early July to all points of the compass and there will be a lean muster of daily workers all during July, August and September.

Hence the importance to the government of this last half of June. There is great haste to do the work that must be done and to clear away the tasks that should have early attention, because it will be so difficult to get much done for a long while after July 1.

On that date the government's expenses are paid from a new set of appropriation laws. A new set of books must be opened. The statutes always have new restrictions and regulations for disbursing money and that is particularly true of the appropriation laws that go into force in July for the coming fiscal year. Then, there is great industry in taking care of the odds and ends which always remain in the departments towards the close of fiscal years. If certain appropriations are not spent by that time, the balances revert to the Treasury. Government officials generally take care that such balances are as small as may be because they are aware how difficult it is to obtain appropriations in these days of economy. Bills must be paid by the tens of thousands. It requires an enormous force of clerks to keep track of those obligations and to see that all are taken care of in compliance with the requirements of the red tape which prevails in every department.

Quite a number of officials, who have been holdovers from the Roosevelt administration, will retire on June 30 and new men will take their places. For that reason in nearly every department and bureau, a contingent of employees are clearing up their desks, taking out private papers, and getting ready to try title once more with the cold, cold world.

Great pains are being taken in these days that precede the transfer of the Capital to Massachusetts, to get the wheels of the administrative machinery in the Census office whirling once again. They have been idle for a month, since the trouble between Secretary of Commerce and Labor Nagel and the late Director, S. N. D. North, broke out. Everything had been going on propitiously up to that time and it looked as though the Census Bureau would be far better equipped for enumerating the population than had ever before been the case.

But for weeks nothing has been done, the force of workers in the Census Bureau has been demoralized. No one knew what to expect. No one thought it wise to make any move to carry out the plans which Director North made, because it might be that his successor would want to make other plans. The confirmation of E. Dana Durand, Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau of Corporations to be director, was held up in the Senate. Chairman La Follette, of the Census Committee, wanted certain questions about the conduct of the Census Bureau answered before he would report Mr. Durand's nomination.

Then Congress has been dallying about enacting the legislation which is believed to be necessary. Senators and Representatives are very cross about the way Mr. North has been treated. They have not the greatest confidence in the world in the new officials. There is a deadlock between the Senate and the House over provisions for selecting additional clerical help. In short the conditions with reference to such a great undertaking as a decennial census are about as bad as they could be. This state of affairs has been made worse by the resignation a few days ago of Mr. William S. Rossiter, the chief clerk of the Census and Mr. North's right-hand man. Next to Mr. North it is conceded that Mr. Rossiter is almost indispensable, but he is unwilling to serve under the conditions he now sees ahead. His work in the Census Bureau for several years has been of the highest order of efficiency, but he is a man of independent means, is able to command a good salary elsewhere, and his resignation must be accepted.

This means the directing work in preparing for the Census must be done entirely by green hands. Mr. Durand is recognized as a very capable man, but he is new to Census enterprise.

It is expected that Congress will authorize the appointment of an assistant director. He, too, will be a green hand. The chief clerk, who is a much more important official to the Census, or at least should be, than are most chief clerks in bureaus as successor to Mr. Rossiter, will be a green hand.

The President is taking a lively interest in getting the Census organization again on its feet and before he departs from Washington hopes to see some material advance. There is promise that the Senate will confirm Mr. Durand in time so that he can take charge by July 1 and that he will have a chief clerk selected by that time.

Senator La Follette has been so busy with tariff that he could not give attention to a conference over the Census bill. The House has been unable to obtain a quorum of its members so as to send the bill back to conference again. But before the end of this week it is probable that the conferees will be able to enter upon their deliberations so that there can be an agreement upon the terms of the bill which must go to the President for his signature.

The President expected to name the supervisors of Census in various states before Congress adjourned or shortly thereafter. The nominations have to go to the Senate eventually and it is desirable that they should be sent there before the Senate adjourns. The supervisors have to be drilled and instructed in their work and directed how to select their enumerators. While the President nominally will have the selection of the supervisors he must rely to some extent upon the recommendations of the director of the Census. In the interim of wrangling nothing has been done toward selecting men for those places and the new director will have to take it up. It may be that some men, whom Mr. North had determined upon, will not suit him.

A great opportunity lies ahead of Mr. Durand, as director. He will enter upon his office tremendously handicapped for lack of experience, but if he can make good, as many believe he will, the result will redound greatly to his personal credit and alike to benefit of the country. Of course the government is better off in its preparations for a Census than it has been prior to previous ten year periods. But millions of dollars have been spent upon the permanent Census Bureau with the idea that it would be in a high state of efficiency for the next Census and that expectation has been disappointed by the events of the last two months. It is not only the preparations for work in the field that have suffered. Even more important are the preparations for tabulating and for office work, which have been at a standstill during a period when there should have been material headway.

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